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N. E. FARMER.

We have the pleasure of giving to our readers below, the speech of Gen. H. A. S. Dearborn at the Seventh Agricultural meeting, and do not doubt our friends will have much pleasure in its perusal. We have reported it as well as we could from our imperfect notes and imperfect recollections, but we hope we have not failed to present its substantial features. H. C.

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SPEECH OF GEN. H. A. S. DEARBORN,

At the Seventh Agricultural Meeting, Feb. 28, 1840.

He began with expressing his diffidence in appearing on such an occasion, and addressing so respectable an assembly of intelligent and practical men. He felt likewise the disadvantages under which he labored in succeeding such men as had on former occasions addressed them; men eminent in the walks of science, and distinguished by their particular and most successful application to sciences of a profound character, but which had an immediate connexion with agriculture. Chemistry and Geology, as well as the branches of vegetable physiology, were intimately associated with agriculture; and on these topics they had the high gratification of hearing from some of the most distinguished men in the country.

They had likewise been addressed by that eminent statesman, who is the just pride of the commonwealth and of the nation, who had recently returned from Europe, like Anacharsis from Greece, to enrich his country with the treasures of wisdom which he had been gathering in foreign countries—in the Athens and Byzantium of modern Europe.

But however much these considerations might weigh with him, yet they did not allow him to refuse any contribution which he might be thought capable of rendering to a cause which he deemed so important, and which had so deep hold upon his affections, as an improved agriculture. Others had entered the field before him and gathered the abundance of the harvest; he would come as a mere gleaner, satisfied if he could bring with him but a single sheaf.

It is a common remark that agriculture has not advanced with a rapidity equal to that with which the other arts had gone forward. Under the circumstances of the case, it was not to him so much matter of surprise that agriculture had not gone farther, as that it had gone so far.

New England was settled under peculiar circumstances. The departure of the pilgrims from England differed from the Exodus of the Israelites, in that when the latter left Egypt they went into a country highly cultivated, after their journeyings in the wilderness were over, and in a climate highly favorable to comfort and industry; but the pilgrim fathers came into a country wholly barbarous and untilled; into a climate perilous and severe; and to a scene of extraordinary and accumulated hardships, and where the great struggle to be had was a struggle for existence.

The colonies sent out by the Greeks and Romans, went out for purposes of conquest. In most cases they went among a people already advanced in the improvements and arts of life, and the transition was little more than a change of place and property. The Romans penetrated into Germany, Gaul, and Britain merely for purposes of conquest, and left colonies only in Gaul. Their colonies were an oppressed and conquered people; but they were the inhabitants of a country already cultivated and improved.

The settlement of New England is an anomaly in the history of civilization. The pilgrim fathers entered into a wilderness not preceded by an army to open their way; nor protected in their settlement by a military force; but where all were called upon to rely upon their personal virtues and energies—their muscular strength, their industry, their economy, their trust in a divine Providence. This was their protection and this their capital.

The whole country was to be conquered by labor. There were no bright spots of cultivation and improvement to cheer the prospect. They had no wealth to invest in improvements. Each man had to struggle hard for a subsistence from day to day for himself and his children. They must do this or perish. They did indeed by the blessing of God surmount these great obstacles; but that under such circumstances agriculture should not have advanced here as it did in other countries, abounding in wealth and advanced in the arts of improved life, is not matter of just surprise. The art of agriculture, though first in importance, seems to have been the last to reach a high degree of improvement in any country.

In the beginning and in the first steps in the progress of society, men from barbarism passed into the nomadian state, and became herdsmen and shepherds. This was the condition of the patriarchs. It is still the condition of the Arabs. Tartary, from the Euxine sea to the walls of China, is still in the same condition. The traveller Clark says the Calmuc Tartars as they were in the days of Herodotus, still live in tents, tending their flocks and herds, and do not till the earth. The ancient Greeks and Romans were absorbed in commerce, in the mechanic arts, in the arts of ornament, in literature, poetry and eloquence. These had made great advances before agriculture was justly appreciated. Rome was devoted to military conquest and glory, and had become "the mistress of the world," before any due honors were paid to the noble art of agriculture. There were indeed distinguished men, who as is common to distinguished minds, had a just taste for rural occupations, scenes and pleasures. Cicero and Lucullus, Tacitus and Seneca had their charming villas, to which they were delighted to retire from the noise and bustle of the capital.

The philosopher Seneca, at his country seat of Nomentanum, and in the midst of his groves, received the sentence of death. His life presents an example which will continue to guide and stimulate men to virtue, when the memory of the infamous tyrant who ordered his death, will perish in oblivion or be remembered only to be execrated.—Tacitus wrote his history in the country; and there he composed the biography of his father-in-law, Agricola.

Agriculture at length rose in the estimation of the distinguished Romans. The Senate patronised the rural arts. Cincinnatus was taken from the plough. Cato wrote a book upon agriculture. The Georgics of Virgil and the writings of Columella are rich in the science of husbandry and rural cultivation. The Carthagenians wrote several works on agriculture. But it had not even then attained to its just rank.

In France and Italy other arts preceded this great art, and it remained far in the rear. Until the reign of Elizabeth, agriculture had been greatly neglected in England. The vegetable products of the soil were very few; and their tables were most scantily supplied. They were before her time dependent upon other countries for bread. Yet England was better cultivated than any country upon the globe, excepting some parts of China.

But England has made rapid and extraordinary advances in this useful and beautiful art, and now, in her cultivation, presents an example of all that is exact and careful in cultivation, useful in productions, and charming and tasteful in embellishments. We are the descendants of England; yet in some things we have at least in these matters reversed the order of sentiment which prevails with them.

In England, the pleasures and privileges and blessings of the country seem properly understood and valued. No man there considers himself a freeman unless he has a right in the soil. Merchants, bankers, citizens, and men of every description, whose condition in life allows them to aspire after any thing better, are looking forward always to retirement in the country, to the possession of a garden or a farm; and to the delicious enjoyment of rural pleasures. The taste of the nobility of England is all this way. There are none of them, who with all the means of luxury which the most enormous wealth can afford, ever think of spending the year in London, or of remaining in the confinement, noise and confusion of the city, a day longer than they are compelled to do by public duty or imperious necessity.

There is, in this respect, a marked difference between England and France. Formerly, in France, the nobility were scattered broadcast over the territory, and had their villas, their castles and chateaux in all the provinces. But the monarchs, anxious to increase the splendor of their courts and to concentrate around them all that was improved and beautiful in fashion, luxury and wealth, collected the aristocracy in cities. The natural consequence was that the country was badly tilled, and an improved agriculture made no advances.

Spain was formerly the granary of Europe. The great means of enriching land, irrigation, was practised there to a great extent; and manuscripts of great antiquity now to be found in the libraries of their princes, show that the knowledge as well as the practice of the art, had made great progress.

The discovery of silver and gold mines in the south, the curse of an ignorant priesthood, and a despotic and rapacious government, had proved fatal in Spain to the prosperity of agriculture.

Happy would it be for us if our men of wealth and intelligence would copy the bright example of the gentlemen of England. If our men of wealth after having accumulated immense fortunes in cities, would carry their wealth and science into the country, and seek to reclaim, to improve, to render it productive, and to embellish it, Massachusetts might be transformed into a garden, and rival the best cultivated districts in the world.

It is an inexplicable fact that even men who have grown rich by trade or other means in the country, should rush into the city to spend their wealth. It is as inexplicable that men who grow rich in the city, should shudder at the idea of going into the country, where wealth might be safely and securely appropriated to purposes of the highest utility, pleasure and taste.

There prevails in this matter a great deal of false sentiment and of ignorant and unworthy prejudice. These men anxiously inquire if they go into the country, how they shall pass their time; and what is to relieve the solitariness and tedium of their evenings? To the active and intelligent farmer living in the country, and actively engaged in rural labors and improvements, during the season of vegetation no day is long enough for labor; and in winter no evening is long enough for domestic pleasures, and intellectual cultivation and the pursuits of science.

If the rich were not swallowed up in avarice and that narrowness and selfishness which the pursuit of money too often creates and too strongly matures, they would find a liberal and delicious satisfaction in cultivating and embellishing a farm, in multiplying the productions of the soil, in introducing the fruits of warm climates and in protecting and naturalizing them here, and encouraging useful labor and promoting by the liberal reward of industry, the comforts of many around them.

Every one knows that the retirement and quiet of the country are favorable to the cultivation of science. Astronomy is best studied in the country, and in the clear sky and open horizon, men become familiar with the aspects of the stars as with the faces of valued friends. They see in the heavens, in the influence of the natural agents above and around them, in all the progress and stages of vegetation, and in the multiplied forms of animal and vegetable life, continued and instructive proofs of the universal and unwearied agency of the great Husbandman. Geology, mineralogy, chemistry, botany, and all the natural sciences are pursued with peculiar advantage in the country.

An important branch of natural philosophy, the science of hydraulics, may be pursued to great advantage, and bears directly and most essentially upon agricultural improvement. Irrigation is one of the most important means of enriching land and rendering it productive. Damascus was celebrated for its fields and gardens as well as for its commerce. The fertility of Damascus was created by artificial irrigation. A traveller found a stream from the mountains which, by artificial canals, was spread over the land. Wherever this water came, vegetation exhibited its luxuriance. So distinctly marked were the limits of improvement, that you could stand with one foot on a highly cultivated and productive territory, while the other rested upon a barren sand. All these extraordinary improvements came from irrigation. It was so with all the countries bordering on the Euphrates. It was so in Egypt, excepting the Delta, which was enriched by the overflowings of the Nile.

As population multiplied in Egypt, it became necessary by artificial irrigation, to increase its productiveness. The canal of Joseph has been the subject of ancient tradition, and is supposed to have been made for purposes of irrigation when he was governor of Egypt. The waters were drawn off in the higher parts of Egypt and were used for the enriching of the land. This it was that made Egypt the granary of the world.

In Spain the agriculture is miserable. Yet the canal of Zaragosa, which was dug to open a communication between the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean, was designed likewise for the irrigation of the country. The experiment here was so successful that a canal sixty miles in length has watered a surface of thousands and thousands of acres, which have thus been rendered productive in wheat. The revenue paid by the farmers to the government for the use of this water, is equal to 25,000 dollars per year. In many places fountains are erected and reservoirs opened, by which the water is spread by various channels over a large territory.

Such operations as these, when pursued even on a small scale, must prove a source of rich gratification to a cultivated mind. The country is friendly to the cultivation of all the beautiful and the useful arts, for here all find their place and use. In the erection of his buildings, some skill in architecture in respect to their strength, their comfort, their endurance, and their convenience is necessary, and the humblest erection on a farm may be made a pleasing object, when framed and fashioned by a cultivated taste. For all the mechanical arts, both the science and the practice, there is on the farm an almost daily use and demand.

The country is favorable to the cultivation of literature and general science. Persons not familiar with the subject are not aware how large and interesting a library might be formed of books exclusively devoted to agriculture and its twin sister, horticulture. These sciences are adorned likewise with the brightest names which shine in the annals of knowledge—those of Bacon and Duhamel. The former sought to interest his countrymen in rural labors and pleasures. The latter, a man of kindred mind, has given to the world the best work on trees and other subjects of agricultural improvement, which is extant.

There is a constant demand in the country for mechanical skill, and the exercise of the most cultivated taste in the laying out and embellishment of grounds, in the forming of roads, in the planting of trees, in the conducting of water, and in the countless circumstances of ornament or utility, which to a mind bent upon useful occupation, constantly present themselves.

Ornithology is a study which can only find its true home in the country. Who would not wish to become acquainted with the birds that cluster around his habitation, and make their home in his groves and gardens, and welcome him with their cheerful notes, and charm him with their melodious morning and evening hymns of praise? Who would not wish to live among them as friends; and to understand their habits and gather instruction from their beautiful examples of domestic affection and duty? Natural history in all its branches is a proper study for the country. Not an insect visits the territory of the farmer but he should learn his character and habits. Some are his enemies. Some of these, the bee and the silkworm, are eminently his friends and benefactors.

The silk-worm by his industry furnishes a large portion of the clothing of mankind. Take the civilized population of our whole country, and there is scarcely a man, woman or a child whose dress has not received some contribution from the labors of this humble operative.

Gen. Dearborn continued by saying that he had barely alluded to these subjects for the sake of showing that there is every thing in the country to call into healthful exercise the physical and the intellectual powers of man; a bounteous table is there spread; and there is rich and abundant food for the body and the mind.

The city must, of course, be regarded as the proper seat of active business and commercial life. But when a large portion of life has been spent in these harrassing pursuits, and men have accumulated the means of competence and independence for the country, why they should not seek to enjoy its refreshing labors, its delightful recreations, and to avail themselves of its privileged hours of retirement and reflection, was to him a mystery which he attempted in vain to solve.

For himself he could say, with the exception of three years spent in Washington, which then indeed could hardly be called a city, excepting as one traveller denominated it, a city of magnificent distances, his home had always been in the country. There he had found his most agreeable labors and his richest pleasures, and the progress of time had served only to strengthen and rivet his attachments to rural life and scenes. He had sometimes been compelled to visit cities in which he was a stranger, and there he had often felt a desolation of heart like that of Marius sitting on the ruins of Carthage.

The return even to a forest, which was the scene of his childhood sports and visits, was like the meeting again of old friends:—in the trees, which he remembers having often seen, and in the birds, which seemed in their cheerful notes and quiet approach to bid him welcome. In visiting a city, he has often felt like the noble-hearted Jennie Deans, who when she went up to London to obtain the pardon of the Queen for her misguided sister, passed the night with her cousin who kept a small shop and was a dealer in Scotch snuff. The simple girl wondered that for such a residence and occupation her cousin was contented to leave "the bonnie green braes of her own land."

It was not merely the unfavorable influence of city life, as he so considered it, upon health, comfort and enjoyment; but he had often deplored its pernicious moral influences. Many an uncorrupted young man from the country, impelled by the insatiable and too often reckless passion for gain, has there early found the grave of his virtue. But too many instances might be pointed out in which the acquisition of property has proved as great a curse as could befal them. The chances of trade are likewise much more numerous and uncertain than men believe or are willing to allow. After a pretty extensive acquaintance with business men, and no limited observation of the common course of things, he was satisfied that among one hundred merchants and tradesmen, not more than three in the city ever acquire independence. It was with great distrust that he came to this conclusion, but upon consultation with an experienced merchant,

he fully admitted its truth. The dangers to virtue in a city are very great, as is well known; and infinitely better would it be for a vast portion of the young men who crowd from the country into the city, if they could be satisfied with a farmer's life. How preferable would it have been for many of those who have sought wealth and distinction in cities, if they had been satisfied with the comforts, innocent amusements and soothing quietude of the country; and instead of the sad tale of their disasters, which must go back to the parental fireside, the future rural bard as he passed the sequestered and humble church-yard, in which they had been laid at rest, with their laborious ancestors, might say—

"Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast,
The little tyrant of his fields withstood;
Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest;
Some Cromwell, guiltless of his country's blood."

Infinitely better would it be for them to pass their lives in the deepest obscurity of the country, than to risk, as is too often done, all their peace and honor in the perils and adventures of a city life.

He was not unaware that these things were in many respects purely matters of taste. He knew well that a country residence could not be alike pleasant to all; but for himself he could say with truth that the humblest cottage in the country would be better than the most magnificent residence in the city. It was a source of consolation to minds inspired with rural taste and attachments, that they should at last find a peaceful grave in some sequestered vale, under the shade of trees planted by their own hands.

He congratulated the farmers of Massachusetts upon the impulse which was given to agricultural inquiry and improvement throughout the State and the whole country. The encouragement given to horticultural science and improvement was a like subject of congratulation. These subjects were now collecting and concentrating the intelligence and taste of the brightest and most improved minds, and this could not fail to give them a generous and lasting impulse.

The great name, the honor and boast of our country and mankind, adorns the pages of agricultural history. Washington was distinguished for his agricultural taste, for the interest which he took in the cultivation of his farm; and for the eminent improvements of which he was instrumental. He referred particularly to his having taken the lead in the importation of several of the most valuable breeds of cattle, sheep and swine for the improvement of the live stock of the country, one of the most important and valuable objects to which the attention of the farmers could be directed. He never forgot his farm even in the midst of his public engagements and services; and his journals, which are published, show in the very midst of his public cares, the most exact and particular arrangements and directions given to his manager for the conduct of his farm and the improvement of his grounds. This his correspondence with the most eminent agriculturists of Europe shows in a like manner.

This generous impulse has gone forth. Archimedes said in his enthusiasm, if you would give him a place on which to stand, he would move the world. We have found a place in a free country, where the mind is free and the body is free to effect any improvement within the capacity of man, and by which the human race may be benefited. A voice was heard among the mountains of Germany which, in proclaiming liberty every where within hearing, aroused the minds of men to powerful action. In this new world, a voice went forth in the thundering cannon of Bunker Hill, which announced freedom and independence to the country. This great revolution opened a wide field for enterprise; awakened into extraordinary activity the powers of the mind; gave birth as it were, to industry; kindled every where the fires of science; and stretches out before the ambition of patriotic and intelligent minds, an interminable course of improvement. Much has already been done for the great cause of education and the improvement and elevation of the laboring classes, the great sources of wealth and the true foundation of independence to a country. The mysteries of science, under our free institutions, are unlocked to them; and mechanics are found, not blind machines, like those which come out of their own work-shops, but capable of teaching even from the chain of philosophy, the profound principles of their own art; that what was once merely an art is now elevated to a science.

A new and most powerful agent has been enlisted in the service of man and promises the most extraordinary benefits to art and science. Our sailors aided by this mighty power, traverse the ocean as if Neptune himself stood at the helm. The chariots of fire course over the land; and lightning and magnetism will, ere long, be yoked to the triumphal car of genius. So rapid is the progress of intelligence, that the anticipations of the most imaginative are likely to be fully realized.

Facts now are the great objects of pursuit. Theories are not likely to be received unless established by facts and experiment. Truth and utility are indissolubly allied. That knowledge is mainly valuable which can be applied directly to purposes of usefulness. The prospect of benefiting our fellow men should give activity and energy to all our powers and labors. In the progress of improvement and the benefits of science, it cannot be doubted that agriculture, the art of arts, allied so closely and inseparably with the most important physical, political, social, and moral interests of mankind, will not and cannot be denied her full share. Improvements here must mainly rest upon facts. Every improvement in agriculture established on facts, cannot fail to be most extensively and permanently beneficial. Let us labor in this great cause with intelligence and zeal, persuaded that no pursuit is more innocent and honest; no engagement to a virtuous and inquisitive mind more engaging and satisfactory; no labor more certainly useful to the community; and none which has or can have a more favorable and beneficent influence upon individual comfort, upon private morals, and upon the general welfare.

RELIGION.—Take away religion and you take away the foundation of much that is noble and exalted in man. He who possesses it, looks upon the world with an increase of admiration; he feels himself glowing with a renovated love to his fellow creatures—and at once acknowledges the invisible and all-pervading power of the Eternal.—Religion throws a brilliancy upon the morning of life; it embellishes the gay and fanciful dreams of childhood; it falls like a refreshing dew upon the hearts of the young and innocent, softening the feelings and affections, without their knowing whence it proceeds. —*Abbott.*

MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the "Committee on Flowers," of the Mass. Horticultural Society, was held at the room of the Society, in Tremont Row, on Saturday, Jan. 25, 1840.

The business of the meeting having been stated, it was moved that Mr C. M. Hovey be appointed Secretary. The committee then proceeded to declare the premiums offered by the Society, for 1839. They were as follows:

Geraniums.—For the best 12 varieties, to W. Meller, a premium of $10,00
For the 2d best 12 varieties, to Hovey & Co., a premium of 5,00
Tulips.—For the best 12 varieties, to S. Walker, a premium of 10,00
For the 2d best 12 varieties, to S. Walker, a premium of 5,00
Roses.—For the best display of flowers to A. Asphinwall, a premium of 10,00
For the best 24 varieties, to S. R. Johnson, a premium of 5,00
For the best 12 varieties, to R. Howe a premium of 3,00
For the best 12 Chinese and other tender varieties, to S. R. Johnson, a premium of 5,00
Pinks.—For the best display of flowers, to S. Walker, a premium of 5,00
For the best 6 varieties to S. Walker, a premium of 3,00
For the best seedling, to W. Meller, a premium of 3,00
Carnations.—For the best display of flowers, to Messrs Mason, a premium of 5,00
For the best 6 flowers, to W. Meller a premium of 3,00
For the best seedling, to W. Meller, a premium of 3,00
Violas.—For the best display of flowers, to S. Walker, a premium of 5,00
For the 2d best display, to S. Walker, a premium of 2,00
For the best seedling, to S. Walker, a premium of 3,00
Dahlias.—For the best display of blooms, to M. P. Wilder, a premium of 10,00
For the 2d best do., to J. J. Low a premium of 8,00
For the 3d best do., to Joseph Breck & Co., a premium of 7,00
For the 4th best do., to Hovey & Co., a premium of 6,00
For the 5th best do., to S. Walker, a premium of 5,00
For the 6th best do., to Messrs Mason, a premium of 4,00

Total amount of premiums $125,00

The committee also awarded the following premiums, in addition to the same sums, offered by the liberality of T. Lee, Esq., for the encouragement of the growth of the most ornamental species and varieties of *native* flowers, viz:—

For the best display of Native flowers through the season, to William Oakes, Esq., of Ipswich, a premium of $5,00
For the 2d best display of the same, to E. Weston, Jr. Esq., a premium of 5,00

No competition was thought deserving of the 3d prize, and the committee reserved the balance, appropriated for 1839, to be added to that of 1840.

A committee of three, from the flower committee, was then appointed to draft rules and regulations for the exhibitions the ensuing season, and instructed to report on or before the second Saturday in March. The following gentlemen were chosen that committee, viz: J. E. Teschemacher, C. M. Hovey, D. Haggerston.

The meeting was then adjourned.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
per order
S. WALKER, *Chairman.*

Attest, C. M. HOVEY, *Sec.*

Approved by the Executive Committee.

Report of the Committee for awarding Premiums on Fruits, &c.

The Committee on Fruits, &c., of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, have attended to the subject of Premiums for the past year, and have awarded them as follows:

Pears.—For the best Summer Pears, to Mr Samuel Pond, a premium of $5,00
For the best Autumn Pears, to Mr Richard Ward, a premium of 5,00
For the best Winter Pears, to Mr E. Vose, President of the Society, a premium of 5,00
Apples.—For the best Summer Apples, to E. M. Richards, a premium of 5,00
For the best Autumn Apples, to Mr J. L. L. F. Warren, a premium of 5,00
For the best Winter Apples, to Dr Amos Holbrook, a premium of 5,00
Cherries.—For the best Cherries, to Mr E. Vose a premium of, 5,00
Peaches.—For the best peaches, open culture, to Mrs Bigelow, a gratuity of 5,00
For the best Peaches, (under glass,) to Mr J. F. Allen, a gratuity of 5,00
Plums.—For the best Plums, to Mr S. R. Johnson, a premium of 5,00
For the next best, to Mr Samuel Pond a gratuity of 5,00
For the next best, to Mr R. Manning, a gratuity of 5,00
Apricots.—For the best Apricots, to the Hon. John Welles, a premium of 5,00
Nectarines.—For the best Nectarines, to Mr Thomas Mason, a premium of 5,00
Quinces.—For the best Quinces, to Col. M. P. Wilder, a premium of 5,00
Grapes.—For the best Foreign Grapes grown under glass, to Mr Otis Johnson, a premium of 10,00
For the best Foreign Grapes, open culture, to Benjamin Guild, Esq., a premium of 5,00
Gooseberries.—For the best Desert Gooseberries, to Mr John Hovey, a premium of 5,00
Raspberries.—For the best Raspberries, to Mr Thomas Mason, a premium of 5,00
Strawberries.—For the best Strawberries, to Messrs Hovey & Co., a premium of 5,00
Currants.—For the best Currants, to Mr A. D. William, a premium of 2,00
Melons.—For the best pair of Water Melons, to Mr John Hill a gratuity of, 3,00
For the best Musk Melons, to Mr E. Vose, a premium of 3,00

For the Committee,
E. M. RICHARDS, *Chairman.*
January 11, 1840.

THE CURCULIO.

Newton, Feb. 26, 1840.

To the Editors of the New England Farmer:

GENTLEMEN—In the spring of 1838 I sent you for publication the result of a verbal communication, which I had received from my highly esteemed friend Dr Burnett, and which was published in your paper of that period, on the subject of the curculio. That communication detailed the results of a single experiment of his, which in that particular case had proved completely successful in insuring a large crop of fruit of the plum from the attacks of that insidious and destructive foe to good fruit. I have just received from him the enclosed letter, and also a communication of his on this same subject which was published in the National Ægis, in June last. These communications I forward to you for publication, as I deem them both equally important, and the hints therein contained extremely valuable. I consider it as the best article on the subject I have ever seen.

Very truly, your friend and humble servant,
WILLIAM KENRICK.

P. S.—Dr Burnett has kindly sent me an accurate drawing of the curculio. Should you think proper to have it engraved, the drawing is at your service. W. K.

Southborough, Feb. 22, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—I received a letter a few days since from you, desiring some information in protecting the fruit of plum trees from the depredations of the Curculio. I have not stationed a hen and chickens around a tree since the spring of 1837, because they would injure other productions which were near the trees; but I should think from what I know of the habits of the curculio, that they would prove quite a prevention. I have studied the habits and character of the curculio in the two last summers, for I consider him the only obstacle in the way of raising that fruit.

1st. I have found that the curculio is on the tree ready for its operations very early, even before the plums are large enough for it to deposit its egg in them.

2d. It continues its labors into August.

3d. It gets on to the tree by flying, though it may crawl up the body at times.

4th. It stings the fruit mostly in the night.

The same curculio that stings the plum and peach I have found repeatedly operating on the apple. I was not aware of this fact till lately, and I do not know but these may be a larger species of the same insect which stings the apple also. I should think they were from the size of the larvæ often seen in apples. I should consider hens with their chickens stationed about the fruit trees, and daily shaking and jarring the trees (for the curculio always falls to the ground when the tree is shook) while the fowls were immediately under them, to prove quite a protection. The supposed remedy should be applied quite early in the spring, in order to warrant the greatest chance of success. The small birds are the natural enemy of this insect as well as most of the insect tribe, and it should be the aim of horticulturists and farmers to encourage their multiplication, and to protect them. I design to make further experiments to protect fruit trees against injuries from this insect, and should I make any discovery or advances, I shall be happy to communicate. Were it not for the curculio, most of our fruit would be comparatively fair, and all of it free from worms. A gentleman lately informed me that apples and other fruit were free from worms in the state of Ohio.

By the request of a friend, I gave the editor of the Worcester Ægis last summer a small article "On the Cultivation of Plums," in which the curculio is described, and some modes of prevention are spoken of in that article. I take the liberty to send you that paper, and also an imperfect drawing of that insect in this letter.

MAGNIFIED DRAWING.

Rhynchœnus Nenuphar, of Herbst.
" Ceraci, of Peck.
Curculio of Horticulturists.

No information could be more important to the fruit grower than a knowledge of the character of the Canker worm, the Curculio, and the Borer, and the best means of securing fruit trees against the injuries which they inflict.

Respectfully, your ob't servant,
JOEL BURNETT.

From the National Ægis

CULTIVATION OF THE PLUM.

MR EDITOR: Sir—I am induced to offer you some observations of mine on the cultivation of Plums. I have taken an interest in the cultivation of fruit for the last eight years, and now have several good kinds in a bearing state. The plum is one of our hardiest fruit trees. During our cold winters I lost pear, apricot, peach, and several of the Baldwin apple, by the severity of the cold, but not a single plum tree. Plum trees of almost all kinds are good bearers; they usually blossom full, and the fruit sets well, and it is certainly one of the most delicious fruits we have, when in perfection. The fine kinds are wholesome and salutary, and can be indulged in even to satiety, when fully ripe, without harm. They will grow well in rather a low loamy soil; if the soil is rich, they grow fast and come quick into bearing.

But the grand obstacle in the way of cultivating this fruit, is the depredations of a small insect of the beetle tribe, which commences its operations when the fruit is quite small, and continues them usually till the first of August. This beetle is called by horticulturists the curculio—is about one sixth of an inch long, has two small bunches or protuberances on its back, and a rostrum or beak, and on this two antennæ. By this rostrum it makes a semilunar incision on the plum, into which it deposits an egg. The egg hatches, producing a worm, or larvæ, which burrows down into the heart of the fruit, eating it through two or three times from end to end. This kills the life of the plum, causing it to wither and fall prematurely: the worm then soon leaves the fruit and enters the ground, where it undergoes a transformation or metamorphosis, common to the insect tribe, and then comes up a new curculio, to deposit its eggs as before described. Its work is not confined to the plum, but extends to the cherry, peach, and apple, though it would seem to prefer the plum to other fruit, on account, probably, of the smoothness of the skin, and the greater ease in making the incision. It is remarkable how general its depreda-

tions are on the plum tree when unmolested; for when the tree is loaded with fruit, and large, scarcely a single plum will remain unpunctured, and consequently all will be lost to the cultivator. Some kinds of peach and apple which have a woolly or furry surface, are not attacked. Almost all the wind-fall apples (as they are called) are produced by this beetle, and upon examination will be found to contain the larvæ or worm from the egg of the curculio.

The plum tree is subject to a disease on the limbs, a kind of excrescence or warty appearance, which Dr Harris says is caused by this same curculio, puncturing the tender bark and depositing his eggs under it. "These swellings, or warts, are diseases of the bark, caused by the punctures of the weevil, and the residence of the grubs. The sap vessels being wounded and irritated by the insects, throw out an increased quantity of fluid; this is re-absorbed by the bark, which is consequently swollen and thickened in substance; the overstretched cuticle bursts, and the swelling becomes irregular, granulated, and full of fissures."

Dr Harris recommends cutting out and extirpating these excrescenses and burning them before the last of June. The wounds made in so doing should be treated with mortar used in grafting.

The character of the curculio is shy and timorous; so much so, it is seldom seen unless hunted after purposely. He is not often seen in motion on the tree, but occasionally in a small crevice or crack, or the axilla of a limb, and so much does he resemble an old blossom or bud, or a small piece of bark, that he will commonly remain unnoticed. Should the observer extend his thumb and finger to take him, ten to one if he don't elude him, falling as imperceptible as a small shot would to the ground.

The habits of this insect are not well known, I still believe, to fruit growers. I have made frequent inquiry of them for a preventive measure. Some have told me the insect crawled up the tree, and most of them have never seen it to know it. It is well to remark that it flies on the tree.

The following are some of the means of preserving fruit against the attacks of these insects.

First. All the premature fruit that falls to the ground with the worm in it, should be immediately gathered and burned. It will begin to fall as early as the 12th or 15th of June, and continue to until the middle of August, if not ripe before. This course, well pursued, will destroy the next generation of them and save the next year's crop.

Second. Shaking the tree briskly morning and night, and two or three times during the day, will very much discommode and interrupt them from pursuing their operations—for at each concussion of the tree the insects fall to the ground, and if they reascend, will soon become discouraged by this course of treatment.

Third. Let two or three hands take a sheet or sheets and spread under the tree, and then shake and jar it, and they immediately fall, feigning themselves lifeless, and appearing like a shapeless lump, and by those who are unacquainted with them, would not be taken for an animal until they moved. All that fall on the sheet should be immediately crushed. This last mode of destroying them should be practiced twice a day while any are found. In the spring of 1837, I cooped a hen and chickens about an Imperial Gage, whose fruit was destroyed the preceding year, and about all the plums matured on this tree. It is probable that the beetles were destroyed by the brood, as they made their way to the surface of the soil. As this little animal is easily annoyed, trees standing before a store or shop or any frequented place, usually more or less escape injury. I have known trees standing near a hog pen, mature their fruit year after year, while others, standing four rods distant, as surely failed.

Mr Manning remarks in his Book of Fruits, that plums thrive best near the borders of the sea, and that the curculio is said to avoid the salt air.

If the foregoing remarks should prove of any advantage to horticulturists in the protection of fruit from injuries inflicted by this insect, or lead to minuter investigation into its nature and habits, I shall be well rewarded for this imperfect communication. JOEL BURNETT.

Southboro', June 19, 1839.

WHITINGTON WHEAT.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer:

As my character officially (as a seedsman) has been animadverted on, relative to some sales I made last spring of the *Whitington New White Wheat*, for *Spring* Wheat, when it has been ascertained (and an experiment made in my own garden proved the same) that in our climate it should be sown in the Fall, I would merely observe that no design to *deceive* the public was dreamed of, (as some inconsiderate persons have thought proper to remark, even in the papers.) I could have no great emolument from the supposed imposition, as my whole stock was but twentyeight bushels, and sold at but a trifling profit, as it cost £1 per bushel in London, to which heavy expences are added. I sold it at 25 cents per quart, and gave a good deal away. My own opinion, and that of many of our first agricultural gentleman is, that it is the finest wheat ever introduced into this country, and they, one and all, intend making a trial of it the ensuing fall.

Mr Whitington, of Surrey, England, who sent it out to me, writes in reply (26th Sept.) to my making known to him the disappointment of those who tried it, "In answer to yours I am as much vexed as I am confounded. I really am at a loss to account for the extraordinary results you communicate. I enclose you one of last year's circulars, and one of the present season's" (which are at Mr J. Breck & Co.'s, Boston, and where a sample of the wheat may be seen.)

"As regards its winter properties as well as spring, it has been fully tested and publicly admitted to be the best wheat in this country for rapid growth, standing uninjured through the most severe weather, and yielding by *an excess* of 16 bushels per acre off the *very poorest* soils over every other tried variety of White Wheat. As to its failure for a Spring wheat with you, I repeat, I cannot account, neither can I learn of American gentlemen here. It is of Swiss origin, which induced us to try it as a spring grain for two seasons, sowing it in February, which in this country is the *latest period* for sowing wheat. Our circular expresses what was done with it in 1838, and this year, 1839, we sowed on the 23d and 24th of March fifteen acres of it, and all was housed *by the 25th of August.* In addition to this fact, Messrs G. Wildes & Co., Mr J. Fothergill, (the London Corn Factor,) Messrs Phillipson, the extensive farmers of Sutton Estate, in Surrey, have all had capital crops of it from sowings in February and March, whilst Mr Baxter, the large Flour Factor, who also farms 300 acres only nine miles from London, sowed ten acres of it during the first week of April, and has carried a capital crop, he assures me *fully*, forty bushels per acre.

"We stand too highly connected and engaged as agents for several noblemen's estates, and farming largely, as well as being Land surveyors, for upwards of forty years, to represent falsely any article, as do also our agents Messrs Gibbs & Co. I can have no right to doubt you, but whether and what are the local causes which have created the disappointment, ought to be best known by you, and, under these circumstances, I would not advise you to sell it again as a spring grain. I regret you did not write me sooner, that I might have sent you some in time to sow the present autumn, the successful issue of which is beyond all question. I will send you 20 bushels by the next packet, hoping it may yet arrive in time for this autumn's sowing, and from which you can supply to those who may, under their hopes, *insist* on some sort of compensation, if it arrives in time, and your weather be mild and open. Sow the wheat, desiring it may be *buried three inches deep.*"

The wheat sent out to reimburse, came too late to do any thing with the last autumn, but will be delivered in such quantity as was before purchased, *gratis.* It can be kept in a case, or glass demijohn, sealed air tight, for fear of weevil, until the proper time to sow it next fall.

GEORGE C. THORBURN,
No. 11 *John street, New York.*

TRIMMING TREES.

Some Farmers, I observe, are already beginning to trim their apple and pear trees. It is a saving of *time* to do it in the winter, but a *loss* of the *fruit*, presently, and finally a loss of the trees.

The following extract from the "Farmer's Register," is in point; and I believe all similar experiments will produce—sooner or later—similar results.

"I had a small apple tree which had been engrafted with a choice fruit, and had been growing perhaps seven or eight years. There was one limb on it which I did not like, because it was growing in a wrong direction. I took it off in December, because I believed the sap to be then in the roots, and therefore at this season there would be none of it wasted or taken away with the limb, and of course the branches left would receive a greater portion of nourishment in the spring. Sometime afterward I examined the tree and found that the part or stump of the limb which remained within the surface of the body, was affected with the dry rot in its purest type. I removed this with my knife, and found that the disease had made its attack on the body of the tree itself. The tree, after the limb was taken off, became sickly, and its fruit after it began to bear was imperfect."

Dry rot may oftentimes be prevented, however, if the wounds are carefully covered with a composition made of rosin, tallow, beeswax and ochre, melted and well mixed together—and where it is necessary, for want of time in the spring, to resort to winter trimming, this method of prevention should be resorted to. It is cheap, simple, and adheres to the wound—excluding moisture—until it is healed over.—*Patriot and Democrat.*

The Farmer's Cabinet attests to the efficacy of lime as a certain destroyer of sorrel, having tried it for that object.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Boston, Wednesday, March 11, 1840.

THE EIGHTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING

Was holden at the Representatives' Hall on Thursday evening, 5th inst. Mr Brigham, of Westboro', one of the Vice Presidents of the meeting, in the Chair. Mr Fowler, of Danvers, was appointed Secretary. The attendance was very full. The subject announced for discussion was the Small Grains.

The Commissioner opened the meeting by reading several letters from gentlemen distinguished for their intelligence and practical skill in agriculture, relating particularly to the use of the marls found in Berkshire, and to the cultivation of wheat. These marls contain nearly ninety per cent of the carbonate of lime; and it had been confidently expected that they would prove highly beneficial in their application to lands, where they might be accessible, and especially to the cultivation of wheat. Experiments only can satisfactorily decide these points; and though the results hitherto have not been encouraging, they are by no means to be regarded as decisive.

The first communication addressed to the Commissioner in reply to his inquiries, was from Edward A. Newton, Esq., of Pittsfield, President of the Berkshire Agricultural Society.

Mr Newton says he thinks it too soon as yet to come to any decisive conclusions. His first experiment was on a lot which had been planted the previous year with potatoes and well manured. He spread twelve loads of marl to the acre and sowed wheat. He obtained a large crop of straw, but the wheat did not fill. This he attributes in a degree to the number of trees in the field, which was his orchard.

His next application of it was to a lot of three acres, upon which he put first twenty loads of fresh stable manure and then twelve loads of marl, and ploughed them in. He then spread ten loads of well rotted manure to the acre, and planted corn. His crop was much injured by the wire worm. He obtained fifty bushels of corn to the acre. He did not expect any direct benefit from the marl, and obtained none; but he designs another season, to lay down this land to grass with wheat; and considers the result then will be a fair experiment of its efficacy and value. Mr Newton likewise made an application of it to carrots, but without any success; it might perhaps be better said, with an injury to the yield. He quotes the authority of Professor Madan, of Scotland, that marl fresh from the pits has always a bad effect upon root crops.

The next letter was from Dr Robert Campbell, of Pittsfield, who applied it at the rate of 200 and 500 bushels to the acre upon carrots, sugar beets, and Indian corn.—He says of his Indian corn, that he could not distinguish the portion marled from that which was not marled.—"On the whole," he says, "I do not consider that the marl was any benefit to the crops thus far, although the additional quantity applied to the beet crop was manifestly injurious. The crops were not of that kind, neither were the experiments conducted in a manner to test the utility of lime in any form. It was from learning that my soil was wholly destitute of the carbonate of lime, that I was induced to try the marl. Another reason was, from observing that portions of my land when well manured and cultivated, did not give a good return in crops, which I was led to believe was owing to the presence of some of the deleterious salts of iron, which I hoped to be able to correct by the use of lime. It is my intention to continue the use of lime in some form, either as marl or lime in a caustic state, until I can be fully satisfied of its use."

The next letter was from Mr Cornelius Basset, of Lee, an intelligent and skilful farmer. He says "he has not been so particular in his application of it as he ought. I put 50 loads upon about 4 acres, and the following season planted with corn, having dropped the same number of loads of manure in the hill." His corn he says was excellent. He afterwards sowed this land with wheat and oats, "which were very good." (This experiment, from the intermixture of the manure, cannot be considered as conclusive.) He goes on to say that "his potatoes yielded about four quarts in a bushel from the same number of hills more than those he did not marl. He applied several loads to his mowing land. The first season he could not perceive any difference. The past season, in some places, he could see a marked difference - in some lots he judged a third difference—in others he could see no difference. He adds, "I feel more encouraged to apply it than when you were here. Some of my neighbors have received much greater benefit from its application than myself; and others about the same. Esq. Porter applied some to an onion bed The first season the onions were ordinary: the past season, on the same bed, extraordinary; he thinks the best in the county: he attributes it to marl: he applied some to old sward-bound meadow land; his grass was much better. He applied on two rows of corn marl instead of plaster, having plastered the best of the piece: he applied about the same quantity of marl as plaster, and at the same time the marled rows he thinks were full as good as the plastered ones. His land is on the banks of the Housatonic river. Another neighbor applied about half a shovelful in a hill to corn, having manured side by side in a hill with good hog manure. The fore part of the season his manured corn was the best. In the fall he would have given any one the piece of corn if he would pick out the marled. In potatoes he was more particular. He planted two rows and applied manure in the hill; two rows marl and manure, and two rows marl alone. His marl and manured rows were the best; the marl application next; but the manured rows the least."

The next letter read was from E. Phinney, Esq., of Lexington, on the cultivation of wheat. It is intended that this letter shall come before the public shortly in another form, and therefore we shall give scarcely an abstract of it. Mr Phinney has now cultivated wheat for twelve years, and for the last nine years with perfect success, the crop varying according to the quality of the soil, from 15 to 25 bushels per acre. He attributes his success to comparatively deep ploughing, so that some portion of the subsoil, the unexhausted treasure of the earth, is brought to the surface to be enriched by manure and atmospheric influences; and to the use of lime mixed with peat ashes, and barilla, containing about 50 per ct. of lime.

He says: "The parable of the sower who went out to sow, contains much agricultural as well as moral and religious instruction. The seed that fell upon stony ground *which had not much earth*, like that which is sown upon our shoal-ploughed fields, sprung up and grew the better at first, by reason of its having but little depth of earth; but as soon as the sun was up and the season advanced, it was scorched, and because it had no root, it withered away. Here is an admirable lesson for farmers; and the reasoning of the sacred teacher is as sound and unanswerable in an agricultural as it is in a moral and religious view. Let the farmers then sow their seed upon "good ground," deeply ploughed and liberally and rightly manured, and we shall have no more of the necessity of legislative bounty as an inducement to the culture of wheat." He adds: "Allowing me, however, to judge from my own experience, I say without hesitation, I have no doubt as to the successful cultivation of this valuable crop in all parts of the commonwealth; I mean with a due application of skill in the management and cultivation of our grounds."

The question of Small Grains then coming up, and particularly the cultivation of wheat, several gentlemen addressed the meeting on the various topics of the use of lime for wheat, on sowing wheat upon green sward, on the prevention of smut, on laying down land with wheat, and other incidental matters.

Mr Henderson, of Sunderland, stated that he had sowed wheat upon turf land or green sward inverted, and we understood him to say, with success; but as he spoke low, we did not understand whether it were winter or spring wheat; and regret that we were unable to catch his remarks

Mr Cole, the editor of the Yankee Farmer, then addressed the meeting. He had heard several farmers speak of sowing wheat upon green sward, and we understood him, with advantage. In respect to steeping wheat he had known one farmer to soak his wheat in brine a fortnight without injury. The editor of the Genesee Farmer had steeped Italian and common wheat for a week before sowing: they grew very well. A farmer in Onondaga had steeped his wheat a month without injury. He did not believe that brine would injure it. Some farmers in New York had steeped the seed of Italian wheat without injury. Mr Hathaway, of Rome, N. Y., who introduced the cultivation of the Italian, sowed his wheat without preparation. He had soaked it 12 hours and 24 hours in brine: it did not grow. The weather was warm. If steeped in brine and kept cool, it would not take injury. Experiments have been made of brining to prevent smut. This was recommended on the authority of Arthur Young. His, Mr C.'s father, used to prepare his seed wheat by brining and liming it; had at the same time sowed some dry. The dry-sown was smutted: the steeped wheat was uninjured.

B. V. French, Esq., of Braintree, then addressed the meeting. He had made experiments in the application of lime to land. He was desirous to lay down some of his lands to grass. He objected to sowing barley in this case, because it was an exhausting crop; to oats, because they were apt to be followed with an abundance of sorrel. He sowed the Gilman wheat and obtained 23 bushels per acre. He tried the Black Sea variety, but it failed. The next year he wished to lay down some land. Here the Gilman wheat succeeded where the Black Sea wheat failed. In some parts of Braintree and in the neighborhood and on the islands in Boston harbor, the Gilman wheat had failed

In 1837, he wished to lay down to grass a piece of land adjoining that on which his Black Sea wheat had failed He asked the advice of an eminent chemist on the subject of liming. He advised him to apply one hundred and sixty casks to an acre. This was too expensive an experiment; so he applied one hundred and fifty bushels. The lime was air-slacked and spread upon the land, which the previous year was in corn and potatoes. A portion of the land, which had been limed, of eight or ten feet wide, running across the piece, was dressed with strong manure. The wheat came up very well. On the 5th July it was struck with a blast. There was no difference between the manured and unmanured parts of the field. He again advised with the gentleman to whom he had before referred, but his opinions on the efficacy of lime had undergone a change. He, Mr French, would not condemn the use of lime; but he would say his own experience was unfavorable to it. It might answer a much better purpose in old countries than in ours, and it was extensively used there and much approved. He laid this field down to clover and the product was excellent. He had obtained three tons to the acre; and having practised the method of curing it recommended by the late Judge Buel, the hay was a valuable fodder.

He had something to say of deep ploughing. He had lately met with minutes of the examination of several Scotch and English farmers before a committee of Parliament, on the condition of English agriculture, and had read it with great interest. The Scotch farmers were decidedly in advance of the English farming, and their extraordinary success was mainly attributable to an improved system of draining and the use of the subsoil ploughing. This draining was called the Deanston system. It consisted in sinking drains at the distance of seven yards apart to the depth of three feet; narrow at bottom and filled in with stone to the height of about eighteen inches; an inverted sod placed upon these stones to prevent the falling in of the dirt, and then the whole filled up and the field left smooth. These drains were so deep as not to be reached by the plough. The field was then ploughed with a common plough, and this followed by a subsoil plough, so that the whole was completely drained to the depth of eighteen inches, and in the course of cultivation some portion of the subsoil, though not in excess, was brought up to mix with the top soil and to become enriched by air and heat and light. The fields thus prepared and well cultivated and manured, produced most extraordinary crops—from 40 to 50 bushels of wheat to an acre, and other crops in proportion; and this was a permanent improvement.

(An account of this great improvement was given to the readers of the New England Farmer a few weeks since, and we strongly invite the attention of farmers to the subject.)

Mr Williams, of Alford, Berkshire county, then spoke of steeping seed wheat in brine. He did not consider it in any degree a preventive of smut His father had steeped his wheat in brine, yet suffered much from the smut. He used brine for the purpose of floating off oats and other foul stuff, which were mixed with his seed wheat. The brine he regarded as preferable to water for removing smut, as well as other matters, because they would float in brine when they would not in clear water; but he did not consider that there was any particular efficacy in brine itself for the destruction or prevention of smut. He considered lime, however, as a perfect preventive of smut. He had sowed winter wheat upon green sward, and the result had been good. He had made a trial of laying down land with wheat and rye. On three acres, the two outside acres were in rye, the centre acre was in wheat The grass seed was sowed on the snow in the spring. Each of the lots was plastered. The grass seed came up equally well on each lot. On the rye ground, however, the grass was almost an entire failure. On the wheat, the grass took as well as possible, and was almost as obvious to the sight as if the rye land had not been sown at all with grass. He made

afterwards a similar comparative experiment with wheat, oats and barley; and for the purpose of laying down land to grass, the wheat was as decidedly preferable as in the case of rye before mentioned.

Mr Orrin Curtis, of Sheffield, in the same county, then gave his opinions and experience. He had been much in the habit of raising barley and other grains. For laying down lands to grass he considers wheat preferable to any other grain;—rye he placed second, barley last. The roots of barley, and oats, and of buckwheat, run near the surface, and though they are not upon the whole more exhausting to the soil than other crops giving an equal amount of vegetable growth, yet by their mode of growth they rob the soil of that nutriment which the tender plants of grass particularly need. In an exact comparison of three pieces of ground adjoining, each in the same condition, and cultivated in the same manner, excepting that one was laid down with barley, one with oats, and one with wheat, this fact was fully established; the grass appearing scarcely at all among the barley stubble, better among the oats, and full among the wheat

He has raised wheat on green sward with advantage; this has been, when he has been able to sow his wheat by the first of September. He would not choose to sow wheat upon a sward abounding with blue grass or quack (creeping wheat); but clover he considers an excellent preparation, and other English grasses may be turned over with advantage.

He believed that the soaking of seed wheat in brine and then liming it, is a preventive of smut. He has not failed to raise spring wheat for fifteen years; and never suffered from smut until three years ago. The seed of the Italian wheat which he had imported from Rome, N. Y., had the seeds of smut, and his crop was infected. The use of brine and lime had destroyed smut. He had learnt a good lesson on this subject from an old Dutch farmer, who was always careful to keep his seed wheat clean, and thus kept clear of smut.

In respect to the depth of ploughing, which was advisable, much must depend on circumstances. He preferred to plough not deeper than he could manure well; and he would gradually deepen his soil, and bring a portion of his subsoil to the surface. It was of the highest importance to vegetation that the soil should be warmed. It was as important that air and heat should act upon the soil as moisture. In dry and light lands we might plough deep with advantage; but in cold and wet soils, if we turned over the sod, as on account of the wetness it would remain cold, the vegetable matter would not be decomposed, and would therefore afford no nourishment to the growing plants. He laid great stress upon rendering the soils accessible to heat and air, in order to promote vegetation. In ploughing, if the soil were light and dry, he would lay the furrow slice flat; but if wet and heavy, he would prefer that the furrows should lap one on the other; as on such lands he had always got the best crops, when he had turned his furrows up-hill.

He has made repeated trials of lime in different soils, but has found no advantage from it excepting in potato hills. Here it increased and improved the crop. He has tried it on grass and oats, but without success. He has cultivated wheat and corn for years. His usual rotation is first, corn; second, spring rye or spring wheat; third, winter wheat. His manure is given to his corn.

Mr Jones, of Athol, followed. He had applied lime to his land for the destruction of worms, as he deemed it beneficial for this object. He preferred to get his seed wheat from the north, and had sowed it several years in succession. He considered that weeds were extremely prejudicial to wheat. He was accustomed to dissolve lime in water and apply it at the rate of one quart to a bushel. He had no smutty wheat. He sows his wheat early and had never failed to obtain a good crop. He took care to plough his ground fine, and in that way get a start of the weeds.

Mr Hardy, of Waltham, inquired whether our attention should not be mainly directed to raising Indian corn instead of wheat. It was replied to him that corn was undoubtedly upon the whole a more valuable crop than wheat, and that every attention should be paid to its improvement. If other persons can raise one hundred and thirty bushels on an acre, we ought never to be satisfied until we can reach the same point. With good cultivation, undoubtedly, we might raise the bread stuff which is consumed in the State. If one hundred bushels of corn and forty of wheat can be got to an acre, we ought not to be satisfied until we have reached it. It might not be easy to accomplish this, but "we should try." It would require expense to put our land in a proper condition of fertility; but this need not be regarded, provided the return will not only meet it, but much more. The investment of money in such improvements where the profits are comparatively certain, is a judicious application of capital. H. C.

SILK CONVENTION.

We earnestly hope that our friends in the town and in the State, will not forget the silk meeting, which is to be held at the Representatives' Hall on Thursday evening, (i. e. to-morrow.) We hope, likewise, that those persons who have samples of raw or manufactured silks, will do the public the favor to exhibit them at the hall on Thursday evening.

The last meeting voted to invite the ladies who may be interested in the matter to attend the silk meeting. We respectfully extend the invitation, and hope it will be favorably received by them. H. C.

THE NE PLUS ULTRA OF SEED SOWERS.

Mr Willis, the ingenious inventor of several machines calculated to abridge the farmer's labor and facilitate some of his principal operations, is now engaged in perfecting an improvement on his Seed Sower of last year's construction, which we understand will materially enhance the value of that instrument as an aid to the farmer in sowing his seeds.—The various labor-saving implements which Mr W. has offered for the test of the agricultural community, have been highly commended by those who have given them a trial, and are considered by intelligent cultivators as important aids in the economy of the farm; and no one of his machines has won a higher repute than his Seed Sower,—which fact is well attested by the great demand for these instruments, all that were manufactured the last year, (amounting to upwards of eighty,) having been disposed of, and orders made for many more which the inventor could not supply.

If any of our agricultural friends have concluded to furnish themselves with an instrument of this kind, we would advise them to defer purchasing until they shall have examined the *latest* improvement of Mr Willis, which we understand will be completed and ready for inspection at the Agricultural Warehouse, Nos. 51 and 52 North Market st., in the course of a few days.—*Com.*

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, March 9, 1840.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 245 Beef Cattle, 15 pairs Working Oxen, 20 Cows and Calves, 200 Sheep and 110 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We advance our quotations to conform to sales. A few extra $7 25. First quality, $7 00. Second quality, $6 50 a $6 75. Third quality, $5 50 a $6 00.

Working Oxen.—A few sales were effected; prices not public.

Cows and Calves.—"Dull" A few were old at $25, $28, $32, $37, $40, and $42.

Sheep.—All at market were of a fine quality. Lots were sold at $3 00, $4 50, and $5 50, and $11.

Swine.—All were previously contracted for at something more than 5c. A small number only were retailed and prices were not established.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending March 8.

Feb., 1840.	7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday, 2	34	56	47	N. W.
Tuesday, 3	31	56	48	S.
Wednesday, 4	45	68	57	S.
Thursday, 5	44	36	33	N. W
Friday, 6	28	44	45	W.
Saturday, 7	32	48	21	N. W.
Sunday, 8	5	22	28	N. W.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

The subscriber having leased his Farm near this city, will offer for sale, on said farm, on Wednesday, the 25th day of March inst. all of his valuable stock of neat Cattle, being about forty head, mostly high bred animals, among which is one full blooded Durham Bull, four years old, from the stock of Col. Powell, of Philadelphia; ten or twelve Cows; three very fine yoke of working Oxen. The remainder young stock, very fine.

Sale positive and terms liberal. If the weather should be stormy, the sale to take place the first fair day.

Hartford, March 11, 1840. JOSEPH MORGAN.

BOX.

For sale at the Garden of SAMUEL DOWNER, in Dorchester a small lot of tall Box. Also, a large lot of short box, with fine roots and will make a neat border.

March 11. 3t

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

		From	To
Alum, American,	pound	5	5½
Ashes, Pearl, per 100 lbs.		5 75	5 87
Pot, " " "		5 00	5 12
Beans, white, Foreign,	bushel	1 62	2 00
" " Domestic,	"	2 00	2 00
Beef, mess,	barrel	15 00	15 50
No. 1.	"	13 00	14 00
prime,	"	11 00	11 50
Beeswax, white,	pound		
yellow,	"	28	35
Bristles, American,	"	35	70
Butter, shipping,	"	10	11
dairy,	"	15	18
Candles, mould,	"	13	14
dipped,	"		
sperm,	"	37	38
Cheese, new milk,	pound	10	
Cider,	dozen	1 50	1 75
refined,	barrel	2 50	4 50
Bone Manure,	bushel		25
in casks,	"		40
Feathers, northern, geese,	pound		
southern, geese,	"	37	45
Flax, (American)	"	9	12½
Fish, Cod, Grand Bank,	quintal	2 25	2 50
Bay, Chaleur,	"	2 00	2 17
Haddock,	"		1 50
Mackerel, No. 1	barrel	12 00	12 50
No. 2,	"	10 00	10 50
No. 3,	"		5 50
Alewives, dry salted. No. 1.	"	5 00	5 25
Salmon, No. 1,	"	17 00	18 00
Flour, Genesee, cash,	"		
Baltimore, Howard street,	"		
Richmond canal,	"		
Alexandria wharf,	"		
Rye,	"		
Meal, Indian, in bbls.	"	4 00	4 12
Grain: Corn, northern yellow,	bushel		
southern flat, yellow,	"	62	63
white,	"	59	60
Rye, northern,	"		
Barley,	"	75	80
Oats, northern, (prime)	"	40	43
southern,	"	35	38
Grindstones, pr ton of 2050 lbs. rough		18 00	19 00
do. do. do. finished		28 00	30 00
Hams, northern,	pound	9	10
southern and western,	"	7	8
Hay, best English, per ton,		16 00	18 00
Eastern screwed,		12 50	13 00
Hops, 1st quality,	pound	28	30
2d quality,	"		
Lard, Boston,	"	10	11
southern,	"	10	11
Leather, Philadelphia city tannage,	"	29	30
do. country do.	"	25	27
Baltimore city tannage,	"	26	28
do. dry hides,	"	22	24
New York red, light,	"	21	23
Boston, do. slaughter,	"	21	22
Boston dry hides,	"	20	22
Lime, best sort,	cask	85	90
Molasses, New Orleans,	gallon	27	29
Sugar House,	"	50	55
Oil, Sperm, Spring,	"	1 07	1 10
Winter,	"	1 12	1 14
Whale, refined,	"	59	55
Linseed, American,	"	68	70
Neat's Foot,	"	95	
Plaster Paris, per ton of 2200 lbs.		2 75	3 00
Pork, extra clear,	barrel	17 00	18 00
clear,	"	16 00	17 00
Mess,	"	14 00	15 00
Prime,	"	12 00	12 50
Whole Hogs,	pound	5½	6½
Seeds: Herd's Grass,	bushel	2 50	2 75
Red Top, southern,	"	80	1 00
northern,	"		1 50
Canary,	"	2 00	2 25
Hemp,	"	2 25	2 50
Flax,	"	1 37	1 62
Red Clover, northern,	pound	12	15
Southern Clover, none,	"		
Soap, American, Brown,	"	5	7
" Castile,	"	12	13
Tallow, tried,	"	10	11
Teazles, 1st sort,	pr M.	2 50	3 00
Wool, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,	pound	50	55
American, full blood, washed,	"	47	50
do. 3-4ths do.	"	44	46
do. 1-2 do.	"	40	42
do. 1-4 and common,	"	37	40
Pulled superfine,	"	45	50
No. 1,	"	38	40
No. 2,	"	25	28
No. 3,	"	18	24

REPORT ON TREES AND LIVE HEDGES.

The Committee of the Massachusetts Society for the promotion of Agriculture, "On Trees and Live Hedges," have attended to the application of Daniel Stebbins, Esq., of Northampton, who has submitted in due and regular form, his application for a premium on an acre of the Yellow Locust, containing over 1000 trees, the number made requisite by the Society.

The practice of Dr Stebbins will be published, and is encouraging in its course.

It is not clearly stated whether the soil was cultivated about the trees, or more extensively. This it would seem, might be an advisable practice.

Still the growth, considering the lightness or sterility of the soil, was equal to what might be expected in such case.

It would hardly be thought supposable, that the Locust tree could favor the growth of the grass about it; only when compared to other trees from its foliage, it makes less shade. Still there are many who hold the opinion of an actual increased vegetation by the proximity of this tree with great confidence.

Of the advantage to be derived from the raising and multiplying the Locust, there would be but one opinion, if the ravages of the borer could be prevented.

In a separate communication which accompanies his others, Dr Stebbins speaks highly of the benfit to be derived from an umbrageous situation, and of creating a shade previously to setting out the locust, or of placing it in the forest even, where it has been asserted the worm would not follow. Such is the durability and value of the timber of the tree for most uses, that its protection and preservation are well worthy the efforts of all agriculturists, and to such the perusal of the remarks of Dr Stebbins may be well recommended.

It is said by some that these pestiferous worms or insects that annoy the locust are lessening in number, and it is thought that they may disappear, after having had a sojourn of three score years with us.

Some of the tribes, however, seem to be making their ravages on the elm and other trees, which have not before suffered.

To this the attention of our husbandmen is called, and we hope it may not be in vain.

For the communication on the aforesaid plantation, your committee report that the premium of twentyfive dollars be allowed to Daniel Stebbins, Esq.

The same committee have also attended to a communication made by the same gentleman, on the subject of the Mulberry tree, in its relation to the silk culture, and are of opinion that it contains many useful remarks—and further, that in the introduction of a new variety of the mulberry tree by importation from Canton, of the seed which promises a more hardy tree, and produces silk of a better quality. Dr Stebbins is well entitled to the premium of fifty dollars.

It will be seen by this gentleman's communication that he has his doubts whether it would be safe to leave this tree of new variety out through the winter; an object most earnestly to be looked for.

It is to be hoped that this, or some other mulberry tree may suit some parts of the climate of New England, or if not, of the United States, and be so cultivated that the immense import of silk to the extent of 20 millions of dollars as is stated, may be at least lessened.

The committee further report that Dr Stebbins has also made a communication, which is annexed, on the subject of Live Hedges, in which it will be seen he has brought forward a thrifty growth of the Honey Locust, of about 160 rods, which it is thought may be interlocked so as to form a substantial and durable hedge, which would offer an unexpected variety to this mode of enclosure, and be considered highly ornamental by many.

But as the said hedge might, it is feared, be subject to the borer, and at any rate is not so far completed as to ensure its practical utility, however favorably inclined to encourage Dr Stebbins's ardor and enterprise, so laudably exercised, your Committee think it may be better considered hereafter.

One other application has been made by Mr Benj. N. Childs, which contains many good suggestions of his experience in regard to the mulberry or silk culture. But it is to be wished that the objects aimed at for the advantages of the culture had been further set forth.

It is to be regretted that his own course of experience seems to indicate a suspicion or distrust of his labors, as he observes what course he should pursue "were he to commence again."

The object of the Society it will be perceived is to bring forward whatever *favorable* results might be derived from experience, and what means might best conduce to enable the mulberry tree to sustain the rigor of our climate.

This is the desired result, and to be pursued as far as reasonable expectation may be indulged;—when that fails, it must, however reluctantly, be given up.—Of the heading down of the white mulberry, the practice needs confirmation; and as to the difficult and troublesome expedient of the removal into cellars of some species of the mulberry tree every fall, it must operate in its effects in a manner highly discouraging.

The suggestion made by Mr Child for the extirpating of the borer from the apple tree, adds to the weight of general opinion that some effect may be produced by the use of ashes, lime and other caustic matter on the earth about the trees. It is to be hoped that the commendable practice herein may be continued by him, as well as pursued by others. It may be that even the canker worm may be made uncomfortable and be kept aloof from our foliage and fruit. All of which is submitted.

By order of the Committee,

JOHN WELLES, *Chairman.*

MR. STEBBINS'S STATEMENT.

To Peter C. Brooks, Wm. Prescott, E. H. Derby, Josiah Quincy, jr., and Elias Phinney, Esqrs., Committee of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture:

GENTLEMEN—Under the articles of "Trees and Live Hedges" of not less than 50 rods, which shall be in the most thriving condition in 1839, I embrace the privilege of informing you that in the year 1834, I transplanted from my nursery four thousand two hundred honey locust trees, from the seed, being two years old, and set them around the borders of a twelve acre lot, about 160 rods, averaging about half a foot apart; some portions of the lot adjoin heavy timber land, is partially shaded and have grown but indifferently: other parts having a better exposure, have grown very well, from 5 to 8 feet, and capable of being so interlocked, as to make a durable and valuable fence.

On a piece of dry sandy soil, situate between a portion of the honey locust hedge and the yellow locust grove, described in another paper, I had planted out some thousands of Large Leaf Canton layers, which flourished very well, except on the borders of the above mentioned hedge and grove: about one rod in width on either side, the mulberry trees were of small size, of 4 to 6 inches, while other parts out of the reach of the roots of the honey and yellow locust, the trees were from two to four feet, on the same quality of soil: but where the roots extended under adjoining grass ground, did not perceive any injury.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

DANIEL STEBBINS.

—

At the request of Dr Daniel Stebbins, we have examined and measured his honey locust hedge, on Rocky Hill in Northampton, and find that more than fifty rods of said hedge are in a flourishing condition, and in our opinion will make a substantial hedge, the whole length of which is over one hundred and sixty rods.

THEODORE WRIGHT,
WILLIAM W. COOK.

Northampton, Sept. 2d, 1839.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

Potash and soda are the two common and abundant alkalies used in every family every day. The first in the form of soap, pearlash, salæratus, quick lye, saltpetre, &c. The other in the form of common salt, (muriate of soda,) and sometimes in other combinations.

Lime and magnesia are called alkaline earths: the former is frequently put with ashes in leach tubs, where it absorbs the carbonic acid combined with the ashes or potash, and by that means gives it greater power in acting on the grease or oily matter used for the soap. It is more effectual than red hot horse shoes in keeping witches from the soap, and is more certain than either the new or full moon, in gratifying industrious housewives with "good luck" in this branch of domestic economy.

Acids and alkalies neutralize each other. Consequently, if an accident occurs from vinegar, sulphuric acid, (oil of vitriol,) nitric acid, (aqua fortis,) muriatic acid, (spirit of salt,) or any other acid, apply potash, soda, ammonia, quick lime, magnesia, or some alkali, or alkaline earth.

If an accident occurs from an alkali, apply vinegar or a weak solution of some of the stronger acids.

By a knowledge of the properties and the relations of the two classes of substances constantly used by house-keepers, stains on garments can frequently be removed or prevented, cooking improved, and frequently life saved.

Oxygen is the vital portion of the atmosphere, and the agent which supports respiration, sustains combustion, produces rust on metals, changes the juice of the apple, first into sugar, then alcohol, then vinegar, and finally putrefaction; causes light and sour bread, darkens the shade of certain colors, and destroys others, and produces some influence on every thing at all times.—*Genesee Farmer.*

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